



Michigan Crop Weather

Varied Precipitation

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 23, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.28 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula to 1.59 inches in the southwest Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal in the western Upper Peninsula to normal temperatures in the northwest, central, and south central Lower Peninsula. Scattered rain showers were experienced this week with cool temperatures seen throughout the summer. The rain showers were helpful for continued crop growth, but more warm temperature days are greatly needed for crop maturity. Varied temperatures were experienced throughout the week with hot and humid weather in the beginning to cooler windy and rainy days at the end of the week. Early frosts were beginning to become a concern with the below average temperatures we have had this summer. A grower in the southwest Lower Peninsula commented, "Spotty rains and warmer weather have helped to advance crops. Cooler temperatures and drier weather have put current crop growth at normal pace. Concerns about crop maturity exist." Another grower in the central Lower Peninsula commented, "We need warm weather all through September and half of October to mature the crop. An early frost will be very serious."

Field Crops

Needed heat and moisture helped to improve the appearance of many crops but hindered haying activities. Farmers need heat units to continue the positive progression of the crop. **Wheat** harvest was complete. However in the Thumb, many acres were not harvested, plowed under, or piled in the corner of the various fields. This was largely attributed to the sprouting that occurred in the heads of white winter wheat. **Oat** harvest was underway, and some areas were completely harvested. **Corn** grew significantly this week with the pleasant weather conditions. In the northwest, corn has been slow to develop, providing opportunity for increased disease pressure. **Soybeans** responded positively to the good weather. In the south central, a reporter stated, "With adequate moisture, mild temperatures, and a fair amount of sun, corn and soybeans continue to make up for lost growth earlier in the year." The third cutting of **alfalfa** continued as conditions permitted. **Sugarbeets** continued to progress. Farmers anticipated a good crop with harvest expected to begin on September 15. **Dry beans** continued to advance. In the west central, the crop was setting and filling pods. There were reports of white mold in the dry beans in several areas. In the central area, farmers reported severe damage from heavy rains. In the Upper Peninsula, harvest of **birdsfoot trefoil seed** was underway.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/23/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	5	23	70	2
Subsoil	5	23	70	2

Crop condition for week ending 08/23/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	3	10	34	42	11
Corn	5	11	28	45	11
Dry beans	5	11	43	32	9
Oats	3	12	26	49	10
Pasture	3	9	40	39	9
Soybeans	5	11	30	45	9

Fruit

The harvest of early **apple** varieties continued; fruit size and quality remained good. Clean-up efforts continued in Michigan's Fruit Ridge. In the southwest, growers were harvesting Elliot, Jersey, and Bluecrop **blueberries**; quality and size were excellent. **Peach** harvest continued; in the Grand Rapids area, quality was excellent. Harvest of Bartlett **pears** began in the southwest. Harvest of early **plum** varieties continued. Raspberry harvest was completed in the northwest; fall **raspberry** harvest was underway in the southern region. **Tart cherry** harvest was completed. **Grapes** continued to color in the southwest.

Vegetables

Cucurbit downy mildew has continued to show up in **pickle** and **cucumber** fields in several counties. Growers in counties where downy mildew was confirmed were advised to apply protectant fungicides at the recommended intervals to cucumber, pickle and melon plantings. Diseases and pest pressures also continued to cause concern to **tomato** producers as harvest continued across the state. In the west central region, late blight was observed in several commercial **potato** fields and some tomato gardens but has been kept in check where regular, preventive treatments were applied. Harvest of potatoes, **peppers**, **eggplant**, **cabbage**, **lettuce**, **radishes**, **zucchini**, **yellow squash** and **sweet corn** also continued this week, with overall positive reports. In the south, **watermelons** were also harvested in a number of locations. **Pumpkins** and **fall squash** continued to flower and set fruit. **Onion** harvest continued at a slow pace this week; growers in the Grand Rapids area reported that some fields are likely to yield less due to disease, primarily downy mildew, and stand reduction from earlier wet soil conditions. Also in the Grand Rapids area, **leek**, **carrot**, and **parsnip** development continued while **celery** was about 30 to 40 percent harvested with no problems reported. In Oceana County, disease pressures remained high in some carrot fields while an upswing in foliar diseases was observed in **asparagus** fields since the earlier rains and increased humidity.

Crop progress for week ending 08/23/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	81	78	91	91
All hay, third cutting	30	24	41	45
Apples, harvested	5	4	4	2
Blueberries, harvested	80	75	79	83
Corn, silked	96	91	100	98
Corn, dough	41	21	74	71
Dry beans, blooming	99	79	100	100
Dry beans, setting pods	79	27	93	96
Oats, harvested	68	38	91	91
Peaches, harvested	45	29	41	51
Potatoes, harvested	14	12	19	13
Soybeans, blooming	97	87	100	99
Soybeans, setting pods	80	56	97	94
Tart cherries, harvested	100	93	100	100

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/23/09 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	79	36		1,377	1,468		1.23	1.63	2.58	11.66		
Marquette	81	39		1,265	1,385		1.23	1.63	2.58	11.67		
Stephenson	81	39		1,585	1,746		0.92	1.38	2.82	12.17		
Western UP	83	34	-4	1,366	1,462	1,524	1.18	1.55	2.45	11.79	15.29	3.69
Cornell	78	45		1,479	1,616		1.07	1.45	3.34	11.76		
Sault St Marie	80	51		1,277	1,427		1.30	1.51	2.63	12.01		
Eastern UP	80	44	-1	1,278	1,418	1,329	1.41	1.74	3.24	13.45	14.41	3.53
Beulah	82	54		1,654	1,878		0.94	1.21	5.42	16.11		
Lake City	81	47		1,580	1,788		1.73	1.81	4.66	16.87		
Old Mission	80	52		1,536	1,802		1.05	1.68	2.97	11.10		
Pellston	82	46		1,454	1,709		1.02	3.86	4.82	11.24		
Northwest	82	46	0	1,513	1,741	1,719	1.03	1.82	3.66	12.13	13.50	3.11
Alpena	81	52		1,563	1,782		0.91	1.80	4.14	16.65		
Houghton Lake	79	49		1,593	1,832		0.45	0.63	2.53	14.66		
Rogers City	80	51		1,528	1,746		1.21	3.77	6.99	19.51		
Northeast	81	47	1	1,554	1,783	1,668	1.04	2.20	4.27	16.20	13.57	3.12
Fremont	79	52		1,786	1,971		1.06	1.41	4.53	14.54		
Hart	79	49		1,694	1,870		0.85	0.95	2.69	15.68		
Muskegon	82	59		1,954	1,972		0.99	1.38	3.33	13.62		
West Central	82	49	-1	1,784	1,909	1,877	1.04	1.31	3.57	15.44	13.85	3.60
Alma	82	54		1,846	2,080		0.26	0.68	4.04	18.25		
Big Rapids	82	52		1,723	1,987		0.60	0.76	4.15	18.11		
Central	82	52	0	1,783	2,016	1,949	0.55	0.87	4.20	16.87	14.79	3.64
Bad Axe	84	55		1,724	2,002		0.10	0.10	0.95	15.90		
Pigeon	84	54		1,699	1,924		0.60	0.61	2.17	16.38		
Saginaw	83	54		1,899	2,124		0.07	0.57	2.36	15.48		
Standish	88	53		1,690	1,886		0.32	0.86	2.71	14.34		
East Central	88	53	1	1,715	2,004	1,940	0.28	0.65	2.47	16.32	13.36	2.93
Fennville	83	52		1,875	1,993		0.97	1.30	3.23	16.96		
Grand Rapids	82	57		2,093	2,278		0.44	0.55	3.09	19.63		
Holland	93	57		2,172	2,274		0.97	1.19	4.75	27.64		
South Bend, IN	82	57		2,230	2,335		4.64	4.88	6.19	19.79		
Watervliet	83	55		2,036	2,146		1.67	2.02	3.64	16.11		
Southwest	93	50	-1	2,051	2,167	2,107	1.59	1.95	3.89	17.61	15.41	3.18
Belding	82	51		1,804	2,028		0.76	1.48	4.10	17.87		
Coldwater	84	56		2,104	2,140		2.51	2.52	3.08	16.78		
Lansing	81	55		1,983	2,202		0.14	0.50	4.28	22.15		
South Central	84	51	0	1,938	2,137	2,081	0.83	1.29	3.77	18.55	15.44	3.36
Detroit	85	59		2,237	2,421		0.68	0.68	2.22	17.79		
Flint	82	56		1,932	2,244		0.33	0.61	4.62	21.65		
Romeo	85	55		1,931	2,123		0.29	0.32	4.32	15.95		
Tipton	83	55		1,985	2,176		1.13	1.17	2.53	15.46		
Toledo, OH	84	60		2,256	2,380		1.20	2.05	2.84	15.81		
Southeast	88	54	1	2,027	2,233	2,070	0.75	0.89	2.87	15.61	14.92	3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.